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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 11 March 2005, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Hunte ..... (Saint Lucia)

Contents

Adoption of the agenda

Special mission to Bermuda

Caribbean Regional Seminar

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

1. *The agenda was adopted.*

Special mission to Bermuda

2. **The Chairman** recalled that during informal consultations with the Committee in February 2005, a delegation of the Bermuda Independence Commission (BIC) had urged the Committee to visit the Territory in order to assist the people of Bermuda in making an informed choice regarding their future status. Since then, a programme of work and dates for the visit of a special mission to Bermuda had been agreed on with Bishop Lambe, Chairman of BIC. During its visit the special mission would consult with representatives of the Government, the opposition, civil society, business and other organizations and would provide information to the people of the Territory on the role of the United Nations in the process of self-determination. The special mission would be assisted by a representative of the regional office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and by experts in governance and constitutional matters.

3. The first part of the mission would take place from 28 to 31 March 2005 and would consist of interactive sessions with BIC and the public at large. The second part of the mission would run from 30 May to 4 June 2005 and would consist of meetings with various groups representing all strata of society, as well as a number of press conferences aimed at explaining the United Nations mandate. Finalization of the preparations for the special mission awaited a formal invitation from the administering Power, the United Kingdom, to visit the Territory.

4. The official delegation of the special mission would include representatives of Saint Lucia, Bolivia, Congo, Dominica, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste, assisted by a UNDP representative, two experts on governance and constitutional matters, Mr. Carlyle Corbin and Sir Fred Phillips, and two staff members from the United Nations Secretariat. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the composition and dates of the special mission.

5. *It was so decided.*

6. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that he regretted that his delegation was unable to accompany the mission and expressed his confidence that the special mission would successfully accomplish its tasks.

7. **The Chairman** said that the programme of the special mission had been prepared in consultation with BIC and circulated to members of the Committee. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the programme.

8. *It was so decided.*

Caribbean Regional Seminar

9. **The Chairman** recalled the invitation extended by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to host the Committee's 2005 Caribbean Regional Seminar in that country. Appropriate letters in that connection had been circulated to all members of the Committee in aide-memoire 1/05 in February 2005. With the agreement of the host country Government, the dates for the Seminar had been set at 17 to 19 May 2005. As in the past, the Committee would also celebrate the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. He took it that the Committee wished to proceed accordingly.

10. *It was so decided.*

11. **The Chairman** said that, following consultations with the regional groups, it had been agreed that the Committee would be represented at the Seminar by a delegation of 11 members. Consultations in that regard were continuing, and the Committee would be informed of the composition of the delegation once nominations from the regional groups were received. The United Nations would bear the cost of travel for the members of the delegation. He took it that the Committee wished to approve that process and authorize the Secretariat to make the necessary travel arrangements for members of the official delegation.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. **The Chairman** said that following consultations with the Bureau, he wished to recommend that invitations be extended to five experts and five organizations selected from the list of experts and organizations previously circulated to members of the Committee.

14. **Ms. Maldonado** (Department of Political Affairs) said that the Secretariat wished to expand its list of experts and organizations, especially those from the

Pacific and Caribbean regions. She also hoped that the Committee would continue to allow the Secretariat, in the event of cancellations, to make substitutions in the group selected for inclusion in the delegation to the Seminar.

15. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve the selection of the five experts and five organizations to be invited to the Seminar and to request the Secretariat to proceed with the necessary travel arrangements for those experts and organizations.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chairman** recalled that, in accordance with a previous decision of the Committee, invitations to the Seminar would also be extended to other Member States, administering Powers, specialized agencies and other organizations, within the United Nations system, as well as some regional organizations, and to representatives of all elected governments of the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

18. A final version of the revised guidelines and rules of procedure of the Seminar would be circulated within a week under symbol A/AC.109/2005/1. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the draft guidelines and rules of procedure, including the revised agenda of the Seminar.

19. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.